

REMARKS

Overview

The most recent action has raised new issues regarding certain claims that have previously been indicated to be allowable. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejections

Claims 73, 80 and 81 stand rejected as obvious based on Gordin, U.S. Patent No. 6,340,790 in view of Fox, U.S. Patent No. 4,019,301. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Fox does not disclose a clip with the limitations of Applicant's claims. However, to advance prosecution of the present application, these claims have been cancelled without prejudice to pursue them in a related application, thereby mooted this rejection.

Claims 74, 76-78 and 82-89 stand rejected as obvious based on Gordin '790 in view of Fox '301, and further in view of Oakes, U.S. Patent No. 3,968,561. This rejection is also respectfully traversed for similar reasons. However, these claims are also cancelled without prejudice to pursue them in a related application, thereby mooted this rejection.

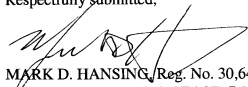
Conclusion

It is respectfully submitted the remaining claims are allowable and that the application is in form for allowance. Favorable action is respectfully requested.

No fees or extensions of time are believed to be due in connection with this amendment; however, consider this a request for any extension inadvertently omitted, and charge any additional fees to Deposit Account No. 26-0084.

Reconsideration and passage to issuance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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